

Texas Business Permits Office

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Governor's Economic Development & Tourism Office staff and community partners continue to work together to provide direct assistance and resource referrals to Texas businesses to overcome this crisis. We are also focused on recovery and the next steps to position our state and businesses for future success. As Texas continues the reopening process, we are here to help. Working together, we can re-engage the economy while continuing to follow health precautions that protect our most vulnerable Texas residents. For additional news and resources regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19), go to gov.texas.gov/business/coronavirus.

1. Q: Which businesses are permitted to reopen per Governor Greg Abbott's Plan to Open Texas?

A: For the complete listing of business types permitted to open, along with guidance, please reference the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) Relating to COVID-19 for Texas Businesses and Community Economic Development Partners](#).

[The Governor's Report to Open Texas](#) helps Texans understand Phase I and II by outlining the new protocols, guidance and recommendations. *(Note: The checklists in this report are no longer current. See the NEW checklists provided within the FAQ referenced above.)*

2. Q: How do I determine if license or permit waivers were granted or renewal late fees will be waived?

A: Governor Abbott has waived certain regulations from various agencies regarding licensing renewal and subsequent fees that have been authorized for different grace periods. To gain details about late fees and grace periods of a license or permit that your business has been issued, please contact or visit the website of the issuing agency of that credential in question. You may view the complete list of waivers that were issued by the Governor by visiting the "Waivers Issued by the Governor" section on the [Coronavirus Resources and Response](#) page.

STARTING A NEW ONLINE RETAIL, HOME-BASED OR COVID-19 RELATED BUSINESS

3. Q: What licenses and permits are needed in order to start an online retail or home-based business?

A: When following the steps for [starting a business](#) and you arrive at **Step 6 - Business Licenses and Permits by Business Type**, please visit the *Online Retail Business – Home-Based Business* section on page 103 of the [2020 Texas Business Licenses & Permits Guide](#). In addition, the type of product or scope of services that your business will provide further determine if a license or permit may be needed. Please locate the applicable business type that is specific to the applicable product or service in the [2020 Texas Business Licenses & Permits Guide](#). If your business will sell apparel, accessories, shoes or items that will not be altered, then no additional business type related license or permit is required. To ensure that all permitting requirements are met at the local level, it is suggested that the local county and city government are contacted.

4. Q: How may I obtain a Texas General Business License in order to start my business?

A: The state of Texas does not require a general business license. All entities that transact business in the state of Texas are required to register with the Secretary of State or county clerk's office. There are a number of regulatory agencies that have licensing and permitting requirements based upon the type of services or products that are offered by the respective business. To determine which business license or permit is required for your business type, please consult the [2020 Texas Business Licenses & Permits Guide](#). To view the process of starting a business in Texas, please visit our [Small Business](#) website.

5. Q: What licenses and permits are needed in order to start a COVID-19 cleaning/disinfecting/sanitizing business?

A: A [small-scale](#) residential or commercial cleaning business does not require a special permit or license from the state. For a [large-scale](#) residential or commercial cleaning business that will store and handle a significant amount of hazardous, toxic chemicals, [Tier II Chemical Reporting](#) to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is

required. In order to learn more or to determine if reporting is applicable to your business, please contact the TCEQ [Tier II Chemical Reporting Program](#) at (512)-239-5060 or Tier2Help@tceq.texas.gov.

TCEQ provides [COVID-19 Medical Waste Disposal Guidance](#) to all businesses that will transport and dispose of COVID-19 medical waste.

Both types of cleaning businesses should follow the below guidance:

- **Local Requirements:** To ensure that your business adheres to local requirements, you may contact the city and/or county where your business will transact business.
- View the process of starting a business in Texas at our [Small Business](#) website. The items discussed in this section are specific to **Step 6, Business Licenses and Permits by Business Type**.

Manufacturing a New Cleaning Product and/or Device: If you are creating a new cleaning product and/or cleaning device, please contact the [Medical Devices Group](#) at the Texas Department of State Health Service.

OTHER:

6. Q: Where can I find information that could help my business during the crisis?

A: For the most up-to-date information, please utilize the following resources:

[Additional SBA Resources & Programs](#)

[U.S. Department of Treasury PPP Information Sheet](#)

[Texas Department of State Health Services](#)

[Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation](#)

[Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#)

[Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

[Texas Creative Arts/Film Industry Resources](#)

[Texas Music Industry Resources](#)

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce Disaster Preparedness & Recovery Quick Guides](#)

[SBA Guidance to Faith-Based Organizations](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

The federal government has a “one stop shop” regarding the [Government Response to Coronavirus, COVID-19](#). This page is being updated daily and has the most current federal government agency actions and information. Of particular interest are the actions [the U.S. Small Business Administration](#) is taking to help small business during this uncertain time.

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